

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated January 12, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated April 24, 2007 have been received and their contents carefully reviewed.

By this Amendment, claims 52, 55 and 57 are amended, and claims 43, 44, 47-51, 56 and 58 are cancelled with prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 52-55, 57 and 59-62 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 43-44 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Nishiguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,787) in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,734,416); claims 48, 50, 52-56, 58-60 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi and Ito et al. in view of Moseley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,849); claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi and Ito et al. in view of Deanne et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,627,305); claim 57 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi, Moseley et al. and Ito et al. in view of Deanne et al.; claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi and Ito et al. in view of Franklin et al. (E.P. Patent Application No. 0477882 A2); claim 61 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nishiguchi, Moseley et al. and Ito et al. in view of Franklin et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 52 is allowable over the cited references in that claim 52 recites a combination of elements including, for example, "...forming an adhesive layer on the polarizer... forming a retardation layer on the transparent substrate without an alignment layer between the retardation layer and the transparent substrate, the retardation layer including a chiral dopant with a predetermined pitch..." None of the cited references, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 52, and claims 53-55, 57 and 59-62, which depend therefrom, are allowable over the cited references.

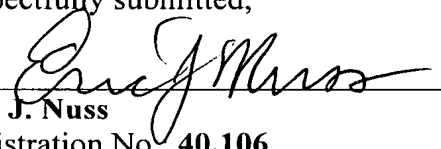
Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: 11 May 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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